



STATE OF ARKANSAS

# House of Representatives

## REPRESENTATIVE

Leslee Milam Post

P. O. Box 1212

Ozark, Arkansas 72949-1212

479-518-0331 Cell

leslee.post@arkansashouse.org

## DISTRICT 83

### Counties:

Part Crawford

Part Franklin

## COMMITTEES:

### Public Transportation

Vice Chairperson,

Motor Vehicle and Highways

Subcommittee

### City, County and Local Affairs

Finance Subcommittee

April 13, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up**  
**CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket 03-109; WC Docket 11-42**

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Like many other states in the nation, Arkansas has been negatively impacted by the recession. Coupled with historically high poverty rates, many Arkansans must rely on state and federal support services to get by each day. For many, the Lifeline Assistance Program truly lives up to its name.

Your leadership during a March 3<sup>rd</sup> FCC meeting was much appreciated. Many of the reforms proposed presented commonsense solutions to address concerns about waste, fraud and abuse. However, a few measures made me take pause. As you are aware, Lifeline provides cellular service or landline phone support for low-income people. Without access to phone service, many individuals report difficulty in obtaining employment or keeping a job. Families with children find it difficult to stay in contact with schools or make doctors appointments; elderly or disabled are unable to call for help in case of emergency. Any new reforms that would impose fees, either monthly or one-time enrollment, or require program participants to meet new requirements proving poverty status, are overly burdensome and contrary to the people who rely on the Lifeline Program. These proposals, particularly when combined, present a tremendous obstacle to the very individuals Lifeline has reached out to and supported in the past.

As Americans across this country are working to get back on their feet, let's not make economic recovery more difficult. Now is not the time to defund or set caps on programs like Lifeline, which are providing people with essential support services.

On behalf of the citizens I represent, I thank you for your interest in improving the Lifeline Assistance Program and appreciate the FCC's consideration of my constituents' needs.

Sincerely,

Leslee Post  
State Representative

cc: Commission Michael J. Copps, Commissioner Robert McDowell, Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker